

REMARKS

The office action of October 3, 2003, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Mercer et al. in view of the patent to Salter, Jr.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has canceled claim 11, amended claims 10 and 12, and added new dependent claim 15.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now onfile differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, and particularly to the patent to Mercer et al., it can be seen that this reference discloses an axial roll adjustment means.

HM-361PCT

The patent to Salter, Jr. discloses a heavy duty axial adjustment mechanism for rolling mill rolls.

The Examiner combined these references in determining that claims 10-14 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of references does not teach a roll stand having a position indicator for each displaceable roll, which position indicator is connected with the free end of the roll neck of the roll by a connecting rod, as in the presently claimed invention. Thus, the present invention provides a direct measurement or determination of the position of the roll. In Mercer et al. the position indicator 84 is connected to a part of the bearing. Therefore, Mercer et al. can only provide an indirect determination of position. An accurate determination of the axial displacement of the roll or rolls is not possible because bearing play is not taken into consideration by the displacement indicator of Mercer et al, which in turn leads to an incorrect setting of the roll. The combination of references does not teach the invention as recited in independent claim 10 now on file.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted

HM-361PCT

that the rejection of claims 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 16, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 16, 2003.

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